

ORWIGSBURG HAPPENINGS

From Where It All Began

... Is Happening Again

No. 107 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG, PA

May 2021

Fully Vaccinated? Invite Family and Friends to Enjoy the Holiday

Several Memorial Day Traditions Return This Year

Disrupted last year due to the COVID-19 virus and global pandemic, Memorial Day 2021 in Orwigsburg will see the return of several traditions, but not yet the full-spirited observances and celebrations that have marked past Memorial holidays, end-of-school-year parties, and the start to a care-free summer.

Nevertheless, warmer weather invites us all to get outside and take in the beauty, history, and amenities of life here in Orwigsburg. Steeped with patriotism and tradition, invite your family and friends to enjoy Memorial Day here with you.

COVID vaccines have been proven safe, effective, and now readily available. The nation's Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has relaxed its precautions and guidelines for those of us who are fully vaccinated, saying it is no longer necessary to be masked when outdoors with close family and friends who have also been vaccinated. However, carry that



mask with you and continue to socially distance when encountering others or when indoors in a public space.

So, venture out, Orwigsburg! Enjoy a meal at any one or more of our fine restaurants. Take a stroll on Centre Square and take in the monuments, Lions iconic clock, and Bicentennial Park. Plan a visit to the remodeled Veterans Community Memorial Hall, trek the walking trail through the recreation complex and nature trail of serene Albrights Woods. Wet a fishing line in Fisher's Dam. There's so much to see and do right here in your own backyard ... all within easy walking distance.

Cemetery volleys and parade

Early Memorial Day morning, Orwigsburg's American Legion and VFW Honor Guard contingent will visit area cemeteries and fire volley salutes over veterans laid to rest at each. Family members, neighbors and friends line the town square and along the parade route to herald town and regional dignitaries, members of the Legion and VFW, civic and social organizations, emergency services, and others marching in order to honor the day. The parade steps off at

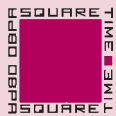
- Continued on page 2

SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

Memorial Day Parade and Lions Club Chicken BBQ – Monday, May 31; activities begin at 8 a.m.

Garden Tour & Tea – Sunday, July 11 – 1 to 4 p.m.; Hosted by the Orwigsburg Historical Society

Square Time – **June Jamboree** – Thurs., June 10 5 to 8 p.m.; Artists, wine/beer/distilled spirits, food vendors, live music; fun.



Farm-To-Square – Thurs., Aug. 12 5 to 8 p.m. Featuring local farm market goods, wineries, breweries, local restaurants, live music, and more.

Kite and Drone Festival – Saturday, July 24 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Athletic Field behind Blue Mt. Elem. East.

Orwigsburg Heritage Day – Saturday, Sept. 11 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Vendors galore! Celebrate our town's past, enjoy its present, and anticipate its future. All day fun, food & entertainment for all ages.



SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY

The Orwigsburg Area Public Library appreciates your help to maintain its services to the community. *See Page 5*

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2021 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

209 N. Warren Street
Orwigsburg, PA 17961 • Ph: 570-366-3103
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
www.Orwigsburg.gov

OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Barry Berger
Council President..... Richard Bubeck
Council Vice President..... Rodney Schaeffer
Borough Manager..... Randall P. Miller
Secretary..... Sherry Edwards
Treasurer..... Colleen Hoptak
Tax Receiver..... Colleen Hoptak
Solicitor..... Paul Datte, Esq.
Borough Engineers..... ARRO Consulting, Inc.
Entech Engineering, Inc.
Alfred Benesch & Company
Fire Chief..... Jesse Zimmerman

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Madeline Bartush • Katie Bedway
Kerry Mariano
Angela Hoptak-Solga • Brock Stein

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergency..... Dial 9-1-1
Non-emergency..... 570-366-3101
Robert Bechtel, Officer in Charge
Brandon Bayer • Bryce Lewis
Patrick McBreen • Tanner Noecker

STREET DEPARTMENT

Slade Bugajinsky • Devin Deibert
Shawn Reichart

WATER AND WASTEWATER

David Teter

BOROUGH OFFICE

Sherry Edwards • Kathi Mengle

Orwigsburg Borough Council meets the First and Second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Orwigsburg Municipal Building, 209 North Warren Street.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, members of the public may view the proceedings online. Request a link to the meeting by emailing rmiller@orwigsburg.gov prior to noon the day of the meeting.

OFFICIAL BOROUGH HOLIDAYS

Orwigsburg Borough offices and services will be closed in observance of the stated holidays in 2021 – New Year's Day, Jan. 1; Presidents Day, Feb. 15; Good Friday, April 2; Memorial Day, May 31; Independence Day, July 5 (observed); Labor Day, Sept. 6; Veterans' Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving, Nov. 25 and 26; Christmas Eve and Day, Dec. 23 and 24 (observed); New Year's Eve and Day, Dec. 30 and 31 (observed).



- Continued from Page 1

8 a.m. this year on Monday, May 31.

A brief Memorial Day service will again be held on Centre Square following the parade amidst the many monuments honoring all service personnel who served this country in time of war.

Continuing an annual tradition that was interrupted last year, the Orwigsburg Lions Club will fire up its barbeque pits outside the beautiful Veterans Community Memorial Hall located at Grove and North Washington streets.

The Lions will be cooking half-chickens on the spot and serving up a full meal for pick-up to enjoy at home. Tickets are available from Lions members in advance. A limited number will be available at Memorial Hall during the event. The Lions will also be selling 50-50 raffle tickets.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

Emergency..... 9-1-1

Non-Emergency..... 628-3792

Borough Office..... 366-3103

Police Department... 366-3101

Friendship Fire..... 366-1500

Orwigsburg Amb.... 366-2331

Historical Society... 366-8769

District Magistrate... 366-0244

Tax Collector..... 366-0288

Library..... 366-1638

Cremation? Burial? Viewing? Where would I like to be buried or scattered?



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Sunday – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

– PLEASE COME IN TO BROWSE ANYTIME –

2021 Infrastructure Work Is Budgeted and Funded

Hopefully, this COVID pandemic will soon end. However, at present, the Borough continues to operate in a preventative nature. Borough Council is meeting in-person in Council Chambers at Borough Hall for their work session and general meetings. Because of limited building capacities and requirements for social distancing, we continue to simulcast via Zoom for the public.



RANDY MILLER
Borough Manager

The Borough is undertaking several projects this year. Infrastructure work, involving water, sewer, and stormwater systems, has started. Already, a sewer line replacement was completed. New sewer line replacements are planned. Stormwater project preparation is underway. Construction will begin soon.

There are several other repairs being planned. This work, along with street repairs, will be done by Borough personnel, on smaller projects, or planned and bid-out through the Liquid Fuels funding process.

Borough Hall is having a face-lift, beginning with the west side of the building, along with repair and reconstruction of the chimney.

Funding has been set aside

The Borough has reserve funds available to get

this work done. Through Liquid Fuel funding allocations and budgeted General Fund expenditures, we expect that a substantial amount of infrastructure can be repaired. Additionally, if and when Congress passes – and President Biden approves – a federal infrastructure bill, there might be additional work able to be added. To capitalize on any grant monies that become available from any source, the Borough and its engineers have been working to have “shovel ready” projects planned.

Additionally, the Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade is underway. This will repair/replace current operational issues as well as bring the plant up to the newest requirements the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) may be imposing. Repairs and upgrades to the collection system will help to eliminate inflow from stormwater and will have a trickle-down impact on our sewage treatment operations.

Borough Council has gone back to having twice-a-month meetings. The first Wednesday is for work session discussions. The second Wednesday is for moving and voting on the previous week’s discussions. Both meetings begin at 7 p.m.

At present, these meetings are open to the public via Zoom simulcast. Hopefully, as the vaccine reaches additional percentages of the population, these meetings can move back to in-person for all in Council Chambers.

– Randy Miller, Borough Manager

We've moved.

While our location has changed, our commitment to providing face-to-face, personalized service for your financial needs is still the same.

Effective April 12th, our office is located at 222 East Market St., Orwigsburg, PA 17961.

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ORWIGSBURG AREA FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

2021 FUND DRIVE

Your Support makes it possible for the Orwigsburg Area Free Library to:

- Keep the **lights on and the doors open**, 6 days a week, morning through evening. State funding pays for less than 20% of our budget. We rely on community donations for more than 80% of operating expenses!
- Serve **4,800** patrons a year with exciting materials and a wide range of clubs and programs for all ages – toddlers through senior adults
- Keep our **30,000-plus** collection of **books, periodicals and digital** materials current
- Provide an **E-Reader** program with choices and convenience
- Offer **technology** tools – free Internet, Wi-Fi and public computers; printing, scanning and faxing at nominal fees
- Offer resources for area students with **weekend and evening** hours
- Continue to qualify for Pennsylvania's state **"Standard of Excellence,"** and as a **PA Forward Library.**
- Effectively **respond to community challenges** like COVID-19. During shutdown, we responded with virtual story time and book clubs and take-home arts/crafts kits, free book cart outside the library and our new YouTube Channel with more than 200 entertaining and educational videos. *We were the first library in Schuylkill County to re-open in early June, 2020.*



Meet Library Supporter John B.:

A lifelong reader who says he is "hooked on libraries," John makes it a point to visit a library wherever he and his wife travel. Close to home, he is an Orwigsburg Library regular. Why? John says, "Because Orwigsburg is a progressive library. I think the library stays ahead of the curve." An enthusiastic supporter of the library, he strongly believes in these words that are stenciled on the library wall (shown above).



GREAT COMMUNITIES BUILD GREAT LIBRARIES

Please give whatever you can today.

Major donors of more than \$500 are honored on a plaque in the library (with permission).

Please make check payable to Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library.

Mail: 216 W. Independence St., Orwigsburg, PA 17961 (you can use the envelope inside this newsletter)

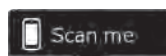
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In Person: Stop in to see us Monday-Thursday 10am to 6pm, Friday 10am to 4:30pm, or Saturday 9am to 3:30pm

For more information about library programs and services:
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The Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library is a registered 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Your neighbors thank you for joining us in supporting your library:

BOARD: Cara Bates, President; Jill Miller, Vice-President; Amy Strouse, Treasurer; Candace Osborne, Secretary;
Members Tara Furer-Romig, Athena Kukta, Mary Ellen Maher-Harkins, Gregory Smith. Library Director Claudia Gross and Staff

The Orwigsburg Library is located at 216 West Independence Street, Orwigsburg, PA 17961

Celebration Will Feature Fireworks on Saturday, May 29

Schuylkill Country Club Marks Its 100th Year

The Schuylkill Country Club (SCC) - crown jewel of Schuylkill County located right here in Orwigsburg's backyard - officially turned 100 years old on May 10. Members and guests anticipated this coming celebration last September with a 9-hole golf tournament on the holes originally designed in 1920 by Willie Park Jr. This kick-off event was followed by a cocktail reception.



Just recently - Saturday, May 8 - guests enjoyed a menu reminiscent of the 1920s and music from the decades. The Centennial President's Plaque was unveiled listing all the presidents through the past century.

A unique family fair is scheduled for Sat., May 29 beginning at 5 p.m. at the club's recreation complex. Festivities start with a maypole dance followed by a time capsule presentation. Members are submitting a variety of items, including personal letters, favorite books, newspapers, club news and tournament memories.

The time capsule (formerly an abandoned safe found in the garage) will be sealed and topped with a 25-year digital countdown clock. Other activities will



include games from the past such as croquet, corn hole, sack and 3-legged races, and a dunk tank.

Fireworks - enjoyed each year by Orwigsburg residents living nearby prior to Independence Day - will climax the evening on May 29.

Future celebration events include another original 9-hole tournament, a Book Club dinner recognizing John O'Hara - Pottsville author and SCC member in the 1930s - a centennial 18-hole golf tournament and a formal gala to close out the centennial year.

Many upgrades have been made in the past few years, including a new pool, recreation complex, and a covered patio, while still maintaining the charm and elegance of the last 100 years.

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Veterans Community Memorial Hall

Local Donations Still Needed Due to COVID-19 Delays on Approvals

Final Phase of Construction Dependent Upon Grant

Final interior construction work and completion of upgrades to the Veterans Community Memorial Hall ground to a near stop in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown of state offices and other agencies for many months.

The exterior reconstruction, upgrades to all mechanical systems, and vast interior improvements have been completed over the past several years. Memorial Hall is open and being utilized by the community.

A \$750,000 grant, through the state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP), was approved by PA Governor Tom Wolf and has slowly progressed through a labyrinth of submittals and government agency approvals to ensure the funds will be used correctly and effectively.

With this and additional local private fundraising, final phase work can commence. This includes additional interior work to the main gym area and meet-



ing room; kitchen improvements, including new appliances/equipment and improved storage to create a catering kitchen of approximately 500 square feet; a permanent office and meeting space for local veteran organizations, including the VFW and American Legion; and the Veterans Foyer, a fitting space visitors will be immersed within when entering the Memorial Hall.

The Veterans Foyer "Hall of Honor" will feature a Veterans Honor Board, listing all submitted and otherwise known local veterans by name and conflict era. All contributors to the Veterans Community Memorial Hall renovations, including individuals, businesses and non-profits, will be recognized. Also to be placed in the foyer will be the original Orwigsburg Court House clock cupola, currently under restoration by the Schuylkill Masonic Lodge.

In late March, the grant agreement was received, indicating the initial steps in final approval was imminent, though a final signature process must be completed and expected to take two to three months.

The Borough and the Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce are working to have final specification documents ready for bid as soon as the signed agreement arrives - anticipated by June or July.

The original intent of the building from its conception in the late 1940s to its dedication in 1950, through today, continues to be to honor and commemorate the great service of our Veterans, in the Veterans Foyer of Honor and through the completion of the renovations.

Because of the delays and the likelihood that due to the pandemic some project costs will change, the Taskforce is still seeking additional contributions to bring the project to successful completion for the continued use and enjoyment of the facility by the greater Orwigsburg community.

Those wanting to be valuable partners in bringing this project to its stately and worthwhile conclusion can still get on board. Send contributions to Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce, P.O. Box 157, Orwigsburg, PA 17961. Every contribution, whether large or small, is valued and needed.

The Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall remains a one-of-a-kind facility in our greater Schuylkill County region. The Taskforce and the Borough are committed to providing a completed community gathering place in honor and appreciation of our Veterans.

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Orwigsburg Borough Trash & Recycling

Things to Know for Curbside Pick-Up of Unwants

The vast majority of Orwigsburg Borough residents take personal pride in maintaining a safe, attractive and healthy community, respectful of one another and welcoming to visitors.

Remember to respect your neighbors and to lend assistance, if needed, when storing and then placing trash and recycling containers for collection.

The Borough requires that all waste receptacles be stored behind or to the side of your property. Particularly, we ask that trash and its receptacles not be stored along any property side that faces a sidewalk.

Please see the rules below and the Borough website, Orwigsburg.gov, for schedules and information.

Refuse/recycling collection

The Borough contracts with County Waste for the weekly refuse and biweekly recycling collection. Curbside pickup is on Tuesday for properties on Market Street and north ... and on Friday for properties south of Market Street.

Keep Orwigsburg Beautiful! Residents are asked to be considerate of the "streetscape" in front of their properties. Store your refuse and recycling containers to the rear or side of your building out-of-sight for neighbors and passers-by.

Ensure that your containers are closed and secure to avoid scattering by wind or animals.

How do holidays affect trash/recycling?

County Waste observes six major holidays - Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day - that may change the normal Tuesday/Friday collections.

Here are the simple Holiday Schedule Rules:

- If the holiday falls on a Monday or Tuesday, trash/recycling pickup will be delayed one day for every household ... Tuesday pickup will move to Wednesday; Friday pickup will move to Saturday.

- If the holiday falls on Wednesday thru Friday, the Tuesday pickup will not be affected; but, the Friday pickup will move to Saturday.

- If the holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday, the normal Tuesday and Friday pickups will not be affected.

Memorial Day, of course, is always observed on a Monday - this year on May 31. Normal Tuesday collection will be delayed until Wednesday, June 2; normal Friday collection will be on Saturday, June 5.

Since July 4 - Independence Day - falls on a Sunday this year, normal Tuesday/Friday collection days will not be affected.

Recycling electronics

Federal law prohibits landfill disposal of desktop computers, laptops, monitors and peripherals, and televisions. These electronics must be recycled during special collection events or arranged privately (usually at a cost) with companies offering responsible electronics recycling.

Recycling sources for electronics and other household hazardous waste can be found on the Schuylkill County government website. Search for Office of Solid Waste & Resource Management.

County Waste will not take these in normal refuse or recycling collection.

Monthly large item pickup

One large item (furniture, etc.) may be placed at the curb beside your regular trash once per month. The collection date is the second Tuesday of each month for residents on Market Street and north ... and the Friday following the second Tuesday for residents south of Market Street.

Residents should place trash at the curb any time after 6 p.m. on evenings prior to collection. Because pickup times vary, do not wait until the morning of collection to place garbage.

Month	Tues.	Fri.
May	11	14
June	8	11
July	13	16
Aug.	10	13

LARGE ITEM PICKUP DATES

Construction materials (shingles, drywall, cabinets, insulation, etc.) may not be placed at the curb with your regular trash. You must get a dumpster which can be leased from the borough's trash collector, County Waste, at 570-874-3047.



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Tree Planting Initiative Enhances Centre Square

5 New Trees Planted; Dedicated on Arbor Day 2021

What do Orwigsburg Borough, a business organization, and a retired forester from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry have in common? Each has a strong desire to enhance the attractiveness of Orwigsburg's Centre Square. Collectively, they're making it happen!

Dedicated on April 30 - Arbor Day - three "Exclamation London Plane" trees were planted in early April within the two center grass plots - two specimens on the western block and one on the eastern block of Market Street.

Additionally, a Ruby Slippers Maple and a Hotwings Maple were planted on the north and south sides of Market Street.

Local talent partnership explained

Resident Frank Snyder has the expertise! He is a retired service forester from the DCNR Bureau of Forestry, having served Schuylkill and Carbon counties. He is an arborist and a director on the Schuylkill County Conservancy board. The tree species chosen



FRANK SNYDER - SCHUYLKILL CONSERVANCY

are recommended "street trees" with good tolerance to nature's changes and are disease resistance. Their seasonal color changes are considered desirable.

Frank prepared the specifications and cost estimate for the work. The Borough gave its approval. The Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association approved the expenditure of \$1,470 to fund the effort and the Borough Street

Crew helped in the planting.

The London Plane variety species chosen for the Centre Square grass plots will grow to a 55-foot height, providing for a 35-foot wide canopy spreading partially over both the east and west traffic lanes. The trees have an upright-pyramidal form with a strong central trunk. A deciduous tree, the large leaves change to yellow and then brown in the fall. Interesting bark is peeling revealing a mottled pattern of green, yellow, and brown.

Both maple varieties will grow to 20 feet high with a 20-foot canopy.

A number of years ago, Frank and other members of the Conservancy created and documented a "tree inventory" (detailing species, dimensions, condition, etc.) of every tree along the public thoroughfare within the Borough. Frank was also a volunteer consultant recommending tree removals and overseeing replacements on the recent South Warren and South Wayne street reconstructions. Annually, he helps and advises the Borough maintenance crew on pruning needs of young trees.

Orwigsburg Borough has the equipment, manpower, and authority to remove diseased or undesirable trees and to plant new ones.

The Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association (OBPA) has the desire and reaps the benefit of a vibrant, pretty community that residents, visitors, and shoppers are attracted to its marketplace.

Newsletter Particulars

"Orwigsburg Happenings" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Orwigsburg distributed to 2,000 households within the borough.

The newsletter is designed and printed by
South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing
960 E. Main St. • Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
Ph: 570-385-3120 • Fax: 570-385-0725

E-mail: printing@southschuylkill.net
www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com

Publication dates for the next three issues are
August 12, November 4 and February 10, 2022

News Submittals

Nonprofit and community organizations within the Borough are invited to submit news items for consideration. Written submittals must be received by Kathi Mengle in the borough offices, kmengle@orwigsburg.gov or call 570-366-3103 for info, three weeks prior to the publication date.

Advertising

Businesses wishing to reach every household in the Borough of Orwigsburg are invited to advertise in future issues. Contact South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing for more information. Call Barb @ 570-385-3120. All advertisements must be received at least three weeks prior to the publication dates. Ad content is subject to approval and acceptance by the Borough of Orwigsburg.

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Orwigsburg Police Department

Local Police Responsible to Enforce Dog Laws

The Orwigsburg Police Department recognizes Chief John Koury who retired on March 12 after 32 years of service to Orwigsburg. The Borough accepted applications for the position until April 7 and, as of this publication, will be in the process of selecting Orwigsburg's next Chief of Police.

There is no timetable for when a new chief will be hired, but it is expected to happen in early to mid-summer. In the meantime, Patrolman Robert Bechtel is the Officer-in-Charge.

Something you probably wouldn't think of when it comes to a local police department is Dog Law. Pennsylvania regulates the ownership of dogs through Chapter 8 of Title 3, the Agriculture Code.

Enforcement authority of the Dog Law is granted to Pennsylvania State Dog Wardens. Authority is also granted to state and local police to enforce Dog Law. In enforcing the law, we typically deal with three main violations.

- It's common for dogs to wander off your property as they follow a scent, car, or another animal. Section 459-305 of chapter 8 is titled "Confinement and housing of dogs not part of a kennel." This stipulates that a dog must be confined to its owner's property. Fencing, leashes, chains, or even verbal control are all acceptable methods.

- Typically when we encounter a dog, we'll look for a registration tag to see if we can find the owner. Section 459-201 stipulates that ALL dogs, three months of age and older, must be licensed. Licenses typically expire at the end of each calendar year and must be renewed unless it is a lifetime license.

In addition, section 455.8 requires all dogs AND cats to have updated vaccination records. In Orwigsburg, we are typically reactive in enforcing these laws and will only ask for a license or vaccination record if we are dealing with a specific dog or cat. State Dog Wardens however are typically proactive and canvas neighborhoods to ensure compliance. A violation of

either law results in a fine of up to \$300.

- The least common issue we deal with as it pertains to dog law are dangerous dogs. A dangerous dog is defined in section 459-501-A as a dog which has: Inflicted severe injury on a human being without provocation on public or private property; killed or inflicted severe injury on a domestic animal, dog or cat without provocation while off the owner's property; attacked a human being without provocation; or been used in the commission of a crime.

To sum it up, if your dog bites someone without provocation, it may be labeled a dangerous dog. The penalty for having a dangerous dog requires the owner to register the animal as a dangerous dog

(which has a myriad of requirements) OR to put it down.

As you can see, it is important that your dog be licensed, vaccinated, and under control so that you can steer clear of fines and, in the worst case scenario, avoid having your dog be put down.

- Officer Robert Bechtel, Orwigsburg Police



State Sen. David Argall

Redistricting Each Decade

This year, I have taken on a new role as the chair of the Senate State Government Committee. This committee has many responsibilities; one is very timely - redistricting!



**Senator
David Argall**

The people of Orwigsburg may recall this process led to the Borough being located in the 124th legislative district until 1992, switched to the adjacent 125th district until 2002, and then returned to the 124th district to the present time.

Redistricting involves redrawing districts every ten years for both the Pennsylvania legislature and the US House of Representatives. This year, my committee will be responsible for drawing the maps for our federal congressional districts.

Gerrymandering - the artificial manipulation of political boundaries to aid individuals or political parties - has been a problem in this state and this nation for hundreds of years.

One of my first actions as the chair of the State Government Committee was to pass a bill to establish new, nonpartisan qualifications for the chair of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

When we passed this bill, we took one small step to begin to roll back the gerrymandering sins of the past.

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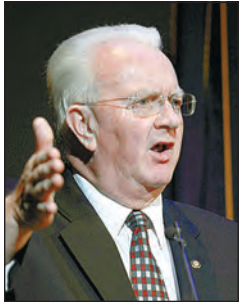
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State Representative Jerry Knowles

Chairmanship, Tax/Rent Rebates & REAL ID

I am pleased to announce that House Republican leaders recently appointed me Majority Chairman of the House Local Government Committee.



**Representative
Jerry Knowles**

The Local Government Committee reviews bills that amend the municipal codes by which local governments operate. This could include legislation related to local government purchases, real estate assessment policies, and statewide pensions for municipal police officers.

I look forward to working with Democratic Chairman Bob Freeman and the committee on developing legislation that will help our local municipalities. My experience as a law enforcement officer, councilman, mayor, and county commissioner should prove to be a valuable asset to the House Local Government Committee.

Tax and Rent Rebate Program

I would also remind residents that applications for the 2020 Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program are available at my district offices, and assistance is available from my office at no cost.

This program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians who are 65 years or older, widows and widowers 50 years or older, and those 18 years or older with disabilities. Eligible participants can receive a rebate of up to \$650 based on their rent and/or property taxes paid in 2020.

The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue will begin sending out checks on July 1. For complete and updated eligibility information or to check the status of a claim online, visit www.revenue.pa.gov or call my Tamaqua office at 570-668-1240.

REAL ID in effect October 1

In addition, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, REAL ID will now take effect on Friday, Oct. 1, 2021. Please know that this is optional for Pennsylvanians.

Should you opt-out of obtaining a REAL ID license, you will have to show another federally accepted form of identification when flying domestically or entering a federal building. For REAL ID requirements and additional information and what counts as a valid form of ID, please visit www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID.



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Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

Great Communities Build Great Libraries!

Wow! Your Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library has really stepped it up to meet the needs and wants of this and many other communities in our area. If you haven't visited recently, read on to discover all the activities and services that await you.

Your Orwigsburg Library is now kicking off its annual Funds Appeal to residents in its central service area - Orwigsburg, Auburn, New Ringgold, and Cresona zip codes. See Page 5 of this issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings* for more information and please use the pre-addressed envelope in this issue to conveniently donate whatever amount you are able.

Open six days per week and online

Located at 216 Independence Street on the ground floor of the Independence Square senior living apartment building, the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library hours are: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Convenient parking is available.



You can access the library system's collection of e-books and its virtual library program 24/7/365. Also available online, check out BEANSTACK at <https://pottsvillelibrary.beanstack.org/>.

The Library has been doing lots of fun activities in-house and on the library's Facebook page. Have you watched the library's YouTube channel? What fun - our staff is always there reading. And, don't forget the library's NEW website - www.orwigsburglibrary.org - now mobile device friendly.

Summer Reading Program begins June 1

Summer Reading is right around the corner - on Tuesdays and Thursdays, depending upon age, from June 1 through August 3. This year's theme is "Tails and Tales." The Library will have both in-house and virtual reading programs for readers of all ages.

Children, age 6 and under, are invited to have story time with Mrs. Price on Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m. Elementary age children are invited to join Miss Chris on Thursdays at 4 p.m. for a story and a craft. Limited



216 W. INDEPENDENCE ST.

space is available, so please make sure to sign-up in advance.

All stories will be aired on the YouTube channel with craft bags available at the Library. Also, this summer, everyone can read and play along with the library's Beach Blanket Book Bingo.

Lots of reasons for Library time

Do you have an interest in any of the following groups that meet? New members are always welcome and encouraged to take part. If you have a particular interest that you don't see, but think others would also share, speak with the library staff to start a group.

Specific in-house programs and services include:

- **Computer Help** - one-on-one computer help on Mondays at 2 p.m. (must sign up in advance).
- **Knitters** - This lively group gathers weekly, Mondays from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
- **Orwigsburg Book Club** - Each month a book is provided. Group discussion is held the last Monday of the month at 6 p.m.
- **Mahjongg Club** players compete on the first, third, and fifth Wednesday each month at 6 p.m. New players are welcome. Anyone wanting to learn Mahjongg meet on Friday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Media Madness** fans meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. to discuss movies, television, comic books, video and other games.
- **Coloring with Chris** is held the first Thursday of the month at 4 p.m. All ages are welcome.
- **Reading with Gypsy** - An opportunity to read your favorite book to a gentle dog named Gypsy, this

SPREAD THE WORD

Interested in submitting an article for next quarter's issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings*? We welcome community service and non-profit organization information. Please contact Kathi Mengle at 570-366-3103 or kmengel@orwigsburg.gov.

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Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

occurs every third Thursday at 4 p.m. You must sign up in advance due to limited time slots.

Upcoming Saturday programs

- May 15 - **Adult Crafting** will make a rustic beehive beginning at 4 p.m.. Register in advance.
- June 5 - **Coupon 101** at 1 p.m. - Learn to save money and stretch the budget through the basics of couponing.
- June 12 - **E-Book Workshop** from 10 to 11 a.m. explains how to borrow E-books from the Library.
- June 19 - **Adult Crafting** at 1 p.m. - Sign up in advance.
- August 14 - **Free Comic Book Day** - Stop in to meet local young adult author, R.A. Fischer, and also get a free comic book. Fischer's book, *Raven Naelo*, can be borrowed and read before his visit.

This and that

Check the library website regularly. New programs are always being added.

A Hospitality Table will be located "on the square" this Memorial Day! Learn and explore Orwigsburg through a new program called "Storywalks" - a fun adventure you can do by yourself or with friends.



Back by popular demand . . . Orwigsburg Library Meat Raffle. Get your tickets on sale at the Memorial Day Hospitality Table. The winner will be picked on August 16.

A 10-cent Paperback Book Sale will be held at the Library in July. It's a great way to stock up for summer reading and help the library at the same time.

Stop in and have a look! The Orwigsburg Library is SO much more than BOOKS!

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Orwigsburg Historical Society

Your Membership & Support for OHS Preserves the Past

The Orwigsburg Historical Society (OHS) and Museum, located at 109 E. Mifflin St., proclaims its ongoing mission is to preserve a legacy for our children.

The public is invited to tour the facility and view its collection on Tuesday and Thursday each week from noon until 4 p.m. Arrangements for other times can be made by appointment. Contact the Society by calling 570-627-7809 or 570-366-8769 for more information regarding visits or services.

Monthly programs are open to all

Visitors are encouraged to bring photos and items for sharing at historical society programs. The Society has announced the following monthly programs - part of its 27th annual series, "Tracing Schuylkill County's History & Heritage 2021."

All are featured on the second Thursday of the month, beginning at 7 p.m., and presented at the Society in a "live audience" setting. Current COVID-19 protocol is followed. Call to reserve your seat. Visit and "like" the OHS on Facebook for updates.

- Thursday, June 10 - "Schuylkill County's Backyard Archaeology & Show-and-Tell" - Schuylkill County author, archaeologist, and historian, Francis J. Burke, along with Roger Freed, archaeology enthusiast & collector, will delve into local archaeology, focusing on actual "digs" in Schuylkill County.

- Thursday, July 8 - "Schuylkill County's Railroad History" - Take a ride on the railroad history train with Matt Fisher, general manager of the Reading & Northern Railroad's Passenger Department.

- Thursday, August 12 - "Digging-Up the Past: The History & Science Behind Forensic Archaeology & Anthropology," presented by Paige Falco, forensic anthropologist & Schuylkill County Deputy Coroner.

Garden Tour & Tea return

The Society is excited to announce the return of its long-awaited "Garden Tour & Tea" on Sunday, July 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. Join us for an afternoon filled with beautiful, creatively-designed gardens and afternoon tea, fit for Queen Victoria. As a very special treat, one of Orwigsburg's premier historic homes will invite you into their kitchen, too! Ticket price is \$25 (just \$20 for OHS Members)!

Support local history; be a member

In addition to restoring and revitalizing the former Friendship Hose Co. No.1 firehouse and our town's "Old Jail," the Orwigsburg Historical Society provides

2021 27th ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP

Celebrating 27 years of preserving the history and culture of Orwigsburg and Southern Schuylkill County in 2021!

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Type of Membership (Please Check One):

☐ Individual \$20.00 ☐ Family \$25.00 ☐ Corporate \$50.00

I would like to make a contribution to the "2021 27th Anniversary Campaign" to help with much needed revitalization to the historic headquarters in the amount of \$ _____

This contribution is "in honor of" / "in memory of" (please circle one) the following person/family:

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free public programs on local history topics, conducts genealogy and property searches, houses a research library, and maintains a museum filled with local artifacts that tell the story of Orwigsburg and Southern Schuylkill County's rich cultural heritage and history!

OHS exists, and continues to operate, thanks to donations and annual membership contributions from people and businesses, past and present, that consider the Orwigsburg region their hometown or adopted new town.

Won't you please consider a membership in the OHS? Memberships start at \$20 for an individual, \$25 for a family, and \$50 for a business membership. Any denomination is greatly appreciated and desperately needed to preserve our historical collection.

Mail your contribution - made payable to "Orwigsburg Historical Society & Museum" - to 109 East Mifflin St., Orwigsburg, PA 17961.

All current members receive access to genealogical research, invitations to special programs, reduced admissions to special events, rental of the museum & "Community Center," and a 20% discount on museum store purchases! Please mention membership at time of purchase.

Proclamation From the Orwigsburg Mayor

Community-Minded Policing Benefits Us All

There is an old saying, "May you live in interesting times." Some say the phrase was derived from an ancient Chinese curse, not unlike those that consider COVID-19 to be a modern Chinese curse. While we've all had to cope with the situation - some tragically - vaccinated, recovered and/or isolated members of the population are starting to build a path toward a return to a normal way of life.



BARRY J. BERGER
Mayor

The "curse" part of the quoted saying translates "interesting times" as the equivalent of chaos. I hope that our actions as your local government helped to keep the chaos at a controlled level. We have done our best to try to stay ahead of changing and conflicting guidance.

While riots and violence rock major cities and our southern border flares up in crisis amid calls to defund, disarm, or disband both local and federal law enforcement, this town has enjoyed a level of comfort provided by our community-focused police department. Significant credit for this can be attributed to the work of recently-retired Chief John Koury.

Following in the footsteps of his legendary mentor, Stan Brozana, John has provided exemplary guidance and unquestionable service for the citizens of Orwigsburg. After devoting 32 years to protecting our community, John has earned a well-deserved retirement. Join me in wishing him and his family all the best the future has to hold. Well done, my friend!

More recently, Officer Robert "Bobby" Bechtel provided primary pursuit and apprehension of the suspect in an alleged road rage incident on Route 61 resulting in the death of another driver. Officer Bechtel has been commended for his controlled and effective response that resulted in the suspect's prompt capture without jeopardizing other citizens, officers, or the suspect. Well done!

That incident helped me realize how fortunate we are to have our own police force. Had it not been for our trained, professional officer on duty, it's very likely that the suspect would have escaped the area in short order.

Finally, we are working through the process of selecting a new Chief of Police for the Orwigsburg Police Department. We have screened 23 applicants and, by the time you read this note, will have conducted interviews with the top selections. If all goes well, Council may have hired the next Chief to lead our fine force.

- Barry J. Berger, Mayor

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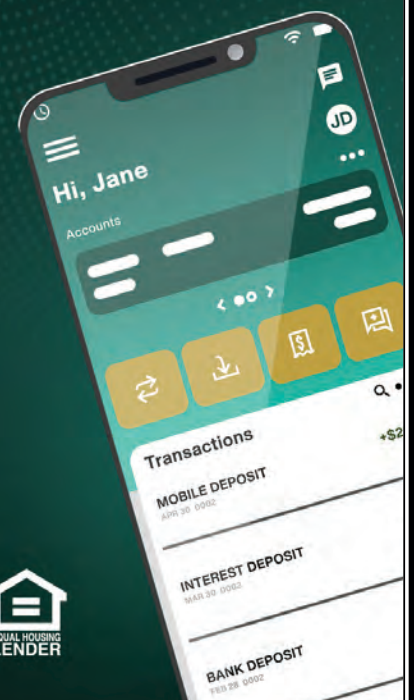
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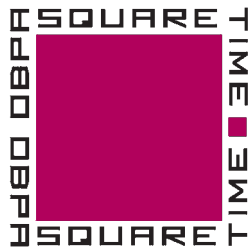
The Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association (OBPA) has elected its 2021 Board of Directors, officers of its Executive Board, and announces its calendar of 2021 community events with exciting, entertaining and affordable activities for residents and visitors of all ages.

Square Time activities aplenty

Square Time is a time of celebration, sponsored and coordinated by OBPA, for residents and visitors. All festivities in the 10th annual schedule will be held on or about the OBPA Community/M&T Bank lot at the center of our beautiful town square. Square Time showcases local businesses, area performers, food trucks and unique vendors.

JUNE JAMBOREE - Back by popular demand after missing the past two years, June Jamboree will be enjoyed Thursday, June 10 from 5 to 8 p.m.

FARM-TO-SQURE - This annual town favorite will be held on Thursday, Aug. 12 from 5 to 8 p.m.



HERITAGE DAY - Cancelled last year due to the COVID pandemic, OBPA is making plans for the 29th Orwigsburg Heritage Celebration, always slated for the Saturday following Labor Day. This year it will be on

Saturday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK - Community-wide "shop locally" promotion - Nov. 26 thru Dec. 3.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS - We don't want to rush the season, but you need to mark your calendar for this one - the always enjoyed Festival of Lights. This year it will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4 beginning at 4:30 on the always beautifully lit Centre Square.



2021 Board of Directors

OBPA held its annual Meet & Greet Membership Mixer at the Schuylkill Country Club on April 15. Members elected to the Board of Directors for 2021 were sworn into office by District Judge James Ferrier. Pictured are, from left, Liz Brensinger, outgoing OBPA president (Friendship Hose Company); Ben Forbes

(attorney at Williamson Friedberg & Jones), Stephen Goodale (KG Projections Inc.), Tracy Schatz (Elite Travel Journeys), and Bill Knecht (South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing).

Improving our community for all

Supporting other organizations in Orwigsburg Borough, and the surrounding region is a prime part of OBPA's mission.

In past years, OBPA has purchased sidewalk benches and trash/recyclable containers for the Orwigsburg downtown "square." The

directional wayfinding sign, located at the M&T/Community Parking Lot at Market and North Warren St. was also an OBPA project.

Last year, the organization purchased an enhanced AED unit for use by the Orwigsburg Police Department. This year OBPA funded the Arbor Day tree planting and dedication on Market Street and assisted a local Eagle Scout project to provide quick connectors on Borough fire hydrants.

New membership year begins July 2021

Orwigsburg is open for business!

Despite the last year of shutdowns, then limited openings, and continued concerns regarding masking and keeping social distance from one another due to the COVID-19 virus, membership in OBPA grew by 7%.

It's widely believed - businesses thrive when joining together to create energy in our community, promote each other, and bolster the economic vitality, variety, and attractiveness of our retail, service, and professional business environment.

New, fresh ideas how OBPA can assist with bettering Greater Orwigsburg are invited and encouraged.

Join us! We welcome new members - existing and new businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals - who want to improve our community are encouraged to join us.

Email us at orwigsburgbusinesspa@gmail.com. Also, follow OBPA member activities and promotions on our Facebook page.

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Spring/summer town-wide yard sales

A successful Orwigsburg town-wide yard sale was held this past August. This followed a one-year absence of such an event in 2019 due to lacking an organizer. The 2020 sale was organized by a group of yard sale enthusiasts, headed by resident Tammy Souder, and aided by social media promotion.

Its success will bring - not one, but - two town yard sales in 2021. Scheduled dates are Saturday, May 15 and Saturday, August 14. In the event of rain on either of these dates, the planned sales could be postponed to the following Saturday. Hours for the sales will be posted as 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Memorial Day Chicken Barbecue

Don't forget the annual Orwigsburg Lions Club Memorial Day chicken barbecue held as part of the Memorial Day festivities on Monday, May 31.

The chicken is barbecued on the spot at the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall. A full dinner is available, packaged for takeout only this year. Tickets will be sold in advance and some will be available during the event. All proceeds are used by the Lions to sponsor local activities.



Orwigsburg Kite Festival

The 5th annual Orwigsburg Kite Festival, hosted and sponsored by the Josh Rex Agency of State Farm Insurance located at 221 W. Market St. in Orwigsburg, will again take to the skies on Saturday, July 24.

Further details are yet to be announced; however, an added aerial attraction this year will be an amateur drone competition, organized by Stephen Goodale of KG Projections, Inc., located at 132 E. Market St. in Orwigsburg. Prizes will be awarded for the best drone photography capturing the Kite Festival activities.

Additional information will be released on Facebook social media

Time to enjoy the outdoors

It's spring! Get out and enjoy the outdoors!

The Schuylkill Conservation District promotes that very idea by hosting and encouraging the public to be part of upcoming organized hikes and related outdoor events. Here are a number of them planned near to Orwigsburg:

- **Spring Bird Walk** - Naturalist Denise "Nightowl" Donmoyer will lead a walk on Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. to locate and identify, by sight and song, resident and migratory bird species that inhabit Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. Meet in the Waterfall Road parking lot for this program that is free and open to beginning and experienced birdwatchers. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear and bring binoculars. Masks are required. The walk will be cancelled in the event of rain. Call 570-345-8952 for information.

- **Fish for Free** - Some things in life are free! On Sunday, May 30 and Sunday, July 4 the Pennsylvania

Fish and Boat Commission allows anyone, resident or non-resident, to fish without a fishing license on all public-accessible waters of the Commonwealth.

- **Memorial Day Concert** - Free and open to the public, the M & J Big Band will perform at the Large Pavilion on the grounds of the Sweet Arrow Lake Clubhouse on Monday, May 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. In the event of rain, the concert could be postponed to Saturday, June 5 at the same times. Sponsored by the Sweet Arrow Lake Conservation Association, social distancing and masks will be required when not separated from those other than your party. Call 570-345-8952 for additional information.

- **Bear Creek Festival** - Staff and directors of the Schuylkill Conservation District sadly have cancelled the very popular Bear Creek Festival this year. Annually held at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds near Summit Station, inadequate resources to host the event was the reason provided.



Monthly virtual scavenger hunts

Schuylkill County's VISION invites individuals, families and friends to participate in free monthly virtual scavenger hunts. Scavengers that complete photo, video, trivia, and survey missions will earn

- Continued on page 22



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 21

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Simply download GooseChase iOS or Android app; choose to play as a guest or register for a free account; and then search for "Schuylkill VISION." Visit www.schuylkillvision.com/schuylkill-goosechase.html for more information.

Schuylkill County Fair



Though not held last year due to COVID-19, orga-

nizers of the annual Schuylkill County Fair are planning for a bigger-and-better fair experience in 2021. The theme this year, slated for Monday thru Saturday, Aug. 2-7 at the Fairgrounds east of Summit Station, is getting back to "Making Memories, One Fair at a Time." Welcome, one and all!

Gates open at 4 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Enjoy displays of farm produce, games, contests, animal exhibits, truck and tractor pulls, and nightly live entertainment.

Admission will once again be \$5 per person. Children 10-years-of-age and younger are admitted free with an adult. Adults 60 years and older are admitted for \$4 on Senior Day (Thursday). Parking is free. Some attractions and the truck pulls have an additional admission.

Community service work in town

Carleigh Palmieri, an eighth grade student at Blue Mountain Middle School, volunteered 15 hours of community service in order to receive Confirmation as a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Pottsville.

In Orwigsburg, Carleigh helped tidy and beautify areas at Orwigsburg Borough Hall and at the electronic billboard near Veterans Memorial Community Hall. Additional volunteer hours were spent shoveling snow for her neighbors and helping at a local kennel.

Carleigh is the daughter of Joseph and Melissa Palmieri. She is the granddaughter of Rod and Elaine Schaeffer, of Orwigsburg, and of Tina Palmieri, New Jersey. Carleigh has a sister, Sophia.



Garden Club plant sale is May 22

South Schuylkill Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 22 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Schuylkill Haven Senior and Recreation Center on Haven Street.

There will be hundreds of plants including, but not limited to, premium daylilies, hostas, and sedum and a large variety of perennials for sun and shade. Shrubs, small trees, vegetable plants, and a large selection of Native Plants will be in abundance. New this year will be annual bedding plants as the club strives to meet the local demand for new varieties of plants.

South Schuylkill Garden Club expert gardeners and Penn State Master Gardeners will be available to answer your gardening questions.

It's never too early . . .

We are accepting applications now for school year 2021-2022. Our staff are busy adding names to the waiting list.

Children are selected for enrollment in April and May so don't wait and miss your opportunity.

We will also take your information for young children and contact you directly when your child is age eligible.

How about that!

Give us a call or visit our website where you can complete the enrollment information and we will contact you.

PA Pre K Counts and Head Start throughout Schuylkill County.

Share with friends and family!



www.childdevelopment.org

Child Development, Inc. (Schuylkill County, PA)

Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry

Distribution of food for the needy from the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry, operating from St. John's UCC, 232 East Market St., will continue for the foreseeable future as a drive-thru on the third Saturday of each month. Cars are to line up on Market St to Sherman St. between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m., weather permitting. All cancellations will be announced on our Facebook page, T-102 radio station, or on the St John's UCC sign across from the church entrance. Pet food and children's books will be available as long as the supply lasts.



Non-perishables or monetary donations are always needed. Call the Pantry at 570-366-2255 for more information, need, or to help in any way.

Permits and codes protect all

If you own property in Orwigsburg Borough or are a contractor or handyman doing work here, the Borough may require a permit for that new or repair/replacement project. That permit is required if you hire someone to do the work as well as if it is a do-it-yourself project on your private property.

Contrary to the beliefs of many, the Borough is not here to stop you from working on your private land. Codes and permits ensure that contractors and owners are not endangering other residential owners/occupants, either to their properties or personally.

Likewise, the Borough tries to ensure, through standardized codes, that the contractor you hire is completing the work in a standardly recognized manner that will not lead to future problems.

It is always nice to see visual indicators of maintenance to homes and properties. However, sometimes appearance can be only "fresh-paint" covering if the substrate is not fixed correctly.

Additional information is available at our webpage: orwigsburg.gov/government/building-zoning/.

Borough holiday schedule

Orwigsburg Borough offices/operations will close on Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day); Monday, July 5 (Independence Day, observed); and Monday, Sept. 6 (Labor Day).

Team Orwigsburg

Team Orwigsburg is a local faith-based mission team, currently comprised of 25 volunteer members who enjoy doing mission work in both Schuylkill County and beyond.

Last year's projects were limited due to COVID-19 precautions and concerns. Yet, Team Orwigsburg remained active, as many members simply helped a friend or neighbor on their own.

Formed 15 years ago, the group's mission statement is "healing hearts and homes" and has lived up

to that by responding to natural disasters in our area (remember the flooding destruction in Pine Grove and Gilberton). Annually, except this past year, Team Orwigsburg travels out of state to help people rebuild their lives following hurricanes or other devastation.

The Team appreciates the continued support and suggestions from the greater Orwigsburg community for its mission work. Meetings have not been held during the pandemic, but the Team hopes to resume monthly meetings again this summer.

If you would like any information or have questions, please contact Susan McCartney at 570-943-2103. Salem United Methodist Church, at South Liberty and West Independence streets, is the location of meetings.

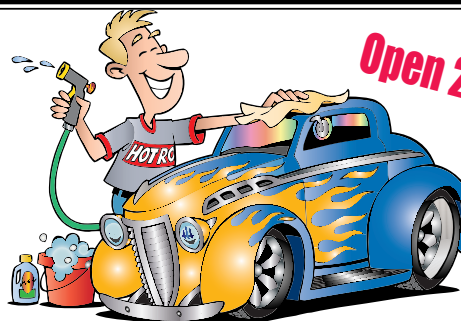
Lions Club H.E.L.P.

Are you or a loved one in need of any of these items to aid in recovery from illness or surgery?

- Wheelchair
- Walker - stationary & folding
- Hospital bed - manual & electric
- Cane - single and multi-legged
- Crutches
- Shower seat
- Bedside commode/bedpan
- Over-toilet seat with handrails



- Continued on page 24



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

- Continued from Page 23

- Temporary tub hand rail
- Recliner chair with auto-lift seat

The Orwigsburg Lions' "Health Equipment Loan Program" (HELP) provides these items to local residents at no charge as a community service. To arrange a loan, call Larry Dagna at 570-617-6149.

You're invited to Public Meetings

Orwigsburg Borough Council has returned to meeting twice each month - a Work Session on the first Wednesday and a Regular Meeting on the second Wednesday - at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers on the second floor of Borough Hall. Due to current social distancing and indoor limited capacities, the public is able to witness the proceedings of both monthly meetings via the Internet utilizing Zoom.

Register for this by emailing a request to Borough Manager Randy Miller at rmiller@orwigsburg.gov no later than noon the day of the meeting. A return email will be sent to you with the link and related information to connect to the meeting. You will have the opportunity to submit public comment through the Zoom Q&A feature or by submitting an email prior to the meeting.

The meeting agenda will be posted no later than noon the day of the meeting at Borough Hall, 209 N. Warren St., and on the Borough's website at Orwigsburg.gov.

My gal "Sally" at Boyer's Market

New to the Boyer's Food Market team of freshly-prepared food artisans is Sally, the salad robot! Created by food robotics company, Chowbotics, Sally provides user-selected custom salad choice with up to 22 ingredients.



Sally's technology reduces the risk of foodborne illness, as ingredients are protected in sealed and separate containers kept under constant, monitored refrigeration. Ingredients are replenished daily and automatic expiration notifications are sent to Boyer's culinary team, ensuring optimal freshness.

"Boyer's has consistently tried to stay on the cutting edge of technology, including launching our Click-N-Shop Program and beta test of deli ordering via text," said Dean Walker, President of Boyer's Food Markets. "When we saw Sally, it was definitely something we wanted to get into our stores. So far the reaction from customers who have used it has been incredibly positive!"

Borough Office now open to the public

Following a several month closure due to COVID-19 orders, the Orwigsburg Borough Office, 209 N. Warren St., is again open to the public for bill-paying or other business matters during regular hours - Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visitors are asked to wear a face mask, enter through the front door only, and observe signs indicating traffic flow and number of occupants allowed at any one time.

Don't flush sanitary wipes

When store shelves became empty of everyday items, such as toilet paper, use of "flushable" wipes, disinfection wipes, paper towels, and other cleaning supplies have been put into service during the health crisis.

Orwigsburg Borough wishes to remind all that wipes - even the ones that say "flushable" - and paper towels do not break down like toilet paper does in water. These items should never be flushed down



Time: 9:30-3:00 Cost: \$35

Camp is for children who have completed K through 6th grade.

June 28 - July 2 Tamaqua

Lewistown Valley (near Heisler's Dairy)

July 12-16 Valley View

Valley View Park

July 19-23 Pine Grove

*Manbeck's E. C. Church, Rock
(Transportation available)*

July 26-30 Auburn

Christmas Pines Campground

Aug. 2-6 Ashland

(Higher Ups Park ~ Near the Pioneer Tunnel)

Our goal is to give every child in the area, no matter their location or situation, the opportunity to hear about Jesus through a memorable week of camp.

Contact: CEF of Schuylkill County

570-682-9790 email: cefschpa@gmail.com

Registration form~ www.cefschuylkill.com

Bring this ad to camp and receive 20 points towards the camp store.
1 per camper

"SHUN" Property Maintenance



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Inclina "SHUN"
Dedica "SHUN"
Perspira "SHUN"

Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

your toilet; but, rather, should instead be thrown away with the trash.

Flushing of wipes and paper towels can cause raw wastewater backups in your home or neighborhood homes by wrapping around broken or misaligned drain pipe joints, thus forming a clog. If these items do pass through the system, they end up at the sewage treatment plant, causing mechanical breakdowns.

Flushing of wipes and paper towels has become a significant concern in recent times due to the shortage of toilet paper and the potential need to utilize alternate means combined with increased cleaning/disinfection recommendations by the CDC for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in households and community settings.

Only flush toilet paper and human waste down your toilet. All other items should be thrown away with your solid trash.

Curb your animal

The Borough Office has received numerous complaints of pet owners walking their dogs and failing to clean up after defecation on both public and private property. Property owners, also, are reminded to pick up the feces of their own pets from their property within a reasonable time.

Both are public health violations as stipulated in Borough Ordinance 299 and subject to a fine up to \$600 for each offense.

The Orwigsburg Police Department has been made aware of this growing problem by inconsiderate residents. Neighbors and property owners witnessing these violations are urged to call the police at 570-366-3101 and file a complaint.

Many residents take advantage of the parks and walking trail and are discouraged by the lack of consideration shown by some pet owners. Homeowners in the Borough who take great pride when maintaining their properties feel violated when having to clean feces left by a passing dog or roaming cat when their masters seem oblivious to the community responsibilities of pet ownership.



Now available - Credit/debit bill pay

It is the responsibility of all property owners to pay their quarterly utility bills in full by the due date printed on the invoice.

Providing our residents with a higher level of customer service, Orwigsburg Borough now accepts credit and debit card payments for water, sewer, and trash service. Customers can make payments online at www.orwigsburg.net or at the Borough Office with major credit and debit cards.



Customers may continue to pay by cash, check or money order at the Borough Office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additionally, checks may be mailed to Orwigsburg Borough, 209 North Warren Street, Orwigsburg, PA 17961, or deposited in the 24/7 drop-off box located at the front door to Borough Hall.

Questions concerning these payment options may be directed to kmengle@orwigsburg.gov or call 570-366-3103.

Take care of your property

Property owners must keep all premises and exterior property free from weeds or plant growth in

- Continued on page 26

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

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excess of 6 inches. All noxious weeds are prohibited.

Weeds are defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs. This regulation, however, does not include cultivated flowers and gardens.

The property owner must also address weeds appearing between sidewalk blocks and between the curb and the street.

Getting the word out

We use the Borough website Orwigsburg.gov as a valuable tool to keep residents and property owners informed about the happenings in the Borough. Our staff will keep the home page current with news on upcoming events and information on past events in the Borough.



The website lists borough meeting schedules. Minutes from these meetings are posted after they have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate body.

The subdivision and zoning codes are also available for all to view. Numerous forms can be accessed, including applications for Albright's Woods usage. Trash day pickup changes will also be posted. Links to other websites, such as the Lions Club, library,

churches and fire company are on the website.

The website also includes a link allowing residents to enter their contact information into the borough's **Swiftreach 911** emergency notification system. This site allows the Borough to notify residents via telephone, text message and email of boil water advisories, weather emergencies or any other emergencies in a prompt manner.

Single Stream Recycling program

The Borough and County Waste Recycling, LLC have prepared updated definitions of the items that can be recycled in our biweekly recycling collection program.

A handy chart of typical recyclable items and a description of the overall program was distributed two years ago. If you have misplaced this insert or need another, printed copies are still available at the Borough Office or by viewing and download from the Borough website, Orwigsburg.gov.

Compliance with these changes by most residents has significantly improved the quality of Orwigsburg's recycling. County Waste has requested that we follow three of the guidelines more closely.

- All items placed in the bin are to be loose, no bagging!
- No styrofoam; it is not a recyclable in their program.
- Be careful not to accidentally put wet items, trash, or garbage in the recycle bin.

Spring and fall are good times to rinse out the recycle bin. Flush it out and let it dry before placing recyclables back in.

From PPL Electric Utilities

It's spring cleaning time. Ditch your inefficient fridge or freezer, save money and energy, and even pick up some spendable cash.

That old fridge you have running in your garage or basement could be costing you an extra \$150 a year in electricity. Through PPL's energy-efficiency programs, you get free pick-up of your old, working refrigerator or freezer, and a \$35 check. As an added bonus, if you recycle an old room air conditioner or dehumidifier at the same time, you'll receive another \$10.

The refrigerator or freezer must be in working condition, between 10 and 30 cubic feet in size, and be clean, empty and defrosted. Visit pplelectric.com/recycle for more program details and call 1-877-486-9204 to schedule your free pick-up.

Recycling your old appliance is good for the environment. Under PPL's appliance recycling program, up to 95 percent of your appliance's components are re-used.



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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

St. John's UCC

St. John's United Church of Christ, 232 E. Market St., welcomes everyone to join us on Sundays at 10 a.m., with Pastor Jeff Johnson leading us in meaningful worship services.

We continue to wear masks and adhere to social distancing in our beautiful sanctuary surrounded by three beautiful stained-glass windows. Our worship services are also on Facebook and YouTube so members and visitors can view them each Sunday, either live or at their convenience during the week. Our website is: stjohnorwigsburg.org.

Stay tuned as we begin to plan ahead for mission work, additional programs for the community, and special worship services. We invite you to call the church office at 570-366-2255 or check our listings on our website for updates!

Sunday school for children, ages kindergarten to sixth grade, is held following the children's sermon each Sunday. In addition to their lessons each week, the children keep our older members provided with special drawings that are mailed out to them on a regular basis. Members look forward to receiving them! The Sunday school children will become involved in some



upcoming mission work for Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf ... a UCC-sponsored home to children in need of guidance, safety and love.

St. John's music director, Trena Murphy, continues to provide beautiful music and programs that are enjoyed every week.

Upcoming Diakon programs for community well-being will be announced as plans are completed over the remainder of this year. Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts meet regularly and leaders' names can be obtained by calling the church office if your family is interested in scouting programs.

The Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry is housed in St. John's. The need for volunteers and non-perishable food is always there. Phone the church office and wait for the 'prompt' to leave a message for the pantry. A volunteer will return your call at their earliest convenience. Food is distributed the third Saturday of each month from 9 until 11 a.m.

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are always welcome at St. John's!

St. Paul's Lutheran

The congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, located at 215 North Warren Street in Orwigsburg,

welcomes everyone to join our worship and consider becoming part of our community of faith.

In-person worship services are held Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8 and 10:30 a.m. We continue to observe COVID-19

guidelines inside our church building.

Our summer worship schedule will take effect on Sunday, June 6 and continue through Sept. 5. Saturday worship will continue at 5:30 p.m., but Sunday worship will change with only one service at 9:30 a.m.

Our congregation will host outdoor Sunday worship services at Albright's Woods Pavilion each month during the summer. All are invited to our "Worship

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(Minimum 1-1/2 Cords)

Order 6+ Cords @ \$170 / Cord + Delivery

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

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without Walls" at 9:30 a.m. on June 20, July 18, and August 15.

A special "Blessing of the Backpack" service on Sunday, Aug. 22 will herald the return to school. We invite students and school personnel throughout the community to join us.

Check our Facebook page, website, or YouTube to watch our weekly online worship or for more information about up-coming events or activities. Our church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. You can also leave a message at 570-366-2316 outside of regular office hours. Beginning June 7, our church office will be closed on Mondays.

Come and see. Share our worship. Join us!

Faith Church

Faith Church is located at 1168 Centre Turnpike. I'm senior pastor, Doug Cresswell, and very appreciative that Faith Church is here, just outside Orwigsburg.

I remember when my family moved here from Virginia more than 50 years ago. What a remarkable town. It had all it needed - doctors, dentists, a pharmacy, a grocery store, and more. Everything you needed was available in this beautiful, quaint little town in the hills of Pennsylvania. It didn't take us long to fall in love with Orwigsburg. And now five decades later, I can honestly say I still hold Orwigsburg dear to my heart.



It is with pride and joy that Faith Church is part of this community. You know this is what I've always wanted - to have a church that is a "hospital for the hurting" and not a "hotel for the saints." Because of that, our motto at Faith is "Loving God, Loving people and Serving the community."

We are excited to announce yet another ministry called "Heart of Faith" that just launched in April. This ministry reaches out to folks visiting Faith as well as regular members/attenders offering support and encouragement.

We have also enhanced our virtual presence by expanding our Sunday LiveStream coverage on our website atfaithchurch.com. We've added a ministry group called "Pastor Doug's Virtual VIPs." This group receives a weekly video study from Pastor Doug as well as my ministry notes and outlines for the Sunday services. To be a part of the Virtual VIPs, just email me at doug.cresswell@verizon.net and we'll welcome you each Sunday.



St. John's United Church of Christ

232 E. Market St., Orwigsburg • 570-366-2255

Spirit filled worship for contemporary souls

Worship 10 a.m. Every Sunday
(Please Wear a Mask)

Bible Study Program
Contact Kay Jones - 570-366-1333

Upcoming Mission & Community Activities Will Be Posted at
StJohnOrwigsburg.org

June 13, 10 a.m. - Albright's Woods
Worship and Honoring
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215 North Warren Street • Orwigsburg

Office: 570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org



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**In-Person
Worship Times**
Saturdays 5:30 p.m.
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion is shared on the first Saturday and Sunday of the month. We continue to observe COVID-19 guidelines inside the church building.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 6 to Sept. 5 - Saturdays 5:30 p.m.; Sundays 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ALBRIGHTS WOODS PAVILION

9:30 a.m. on June 20, July 18 and August 15!

Please check out our Facebook Page,
Website, or YouTube to watch
our weekly online worship services.



A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

Also, coming on one Sunday in May will be one of my favorite ideas - "Donuts with Doug Day!" How cool is that? We'll have a time of fellowship after the Sunday morning service to visit and have a donut with me and my family. I am hoping you'll join us.

COVID-19 concerns are easing and Faith Church is getting closer to normal with in-person and virtual numbers growing. We are still asking our folks to pray for our land. If there ever was a time for our country, leadership and government to seek God, it's now. We cannot take our freedoms for granted. Someone fought and some have died so we can do the very things our freedoms gave us.

I saw a bumper sticker recently that said, "Freedom wasn't FREE." How true! Let's honor our veterans and our land by respecting its laws and leadership and praying for God's peace for all. Respect your neighbor and be grateful for this great country.

Zion's Red Church

All are welcome to join in the services and activities at Zion's Red Church, the oldest congregation located in the heart of southern Schuylkill County. We are a shared ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the United Church of Christ.

You can't miss us, located at 1287 Centre Turnpike near the traffic light at Route 61 and Brick Hill Road. Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with the Rev. Ken Melber, Jr.

Our very popular White Elephant Sale is resuming again this year! Held rain or shine, join us on Saturday, June 19 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a variety of gently-used items for sale. In addition, we'll have baked goods, food, and drinks for purchase. Browse our huge selection of raffle baskets and purchase your chances to get one or more. For everyone's safety and well-being, please wear a mask and observe the social distancing guidelines that will be in place that day.

Contact our church office at 570-366-1178 for any information about our Sunday service, Bible study sessions, church rental spaces, or other events. You can also find us online at zionsredchurch.com or join our Facebook page.

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WELCOMING all with God's love,
STRENGTHENING individuals for life's journey,
BLESSING our wider community



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www.zionsredchurch.com

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Join Us for Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Begins Tuesday, June 8 at 6 p.m.
Book of Revelation

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Saturday, June 19 - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Zion's Red Church

Online worship experiences available

See our article for more details!



179 Pine Creek Drive • Orwigsburg, PA

Join Us!

Adult Small Group Study

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

In-Person & Virtual Classes

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 pm

In-Person & Virtual Classes

Vacation Bible School

Kids - Join us as we head to "Mystery Island"
Children 4 years old to kids entering 6th grade
July 12 thru 16 - 6 pm to 8:30 pm

Join us on Sunday mornings for our worship service at 10 am
In-Person & Live Stream on FB

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

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Livestreams and other online resources can be found at the website for Friedens Lutheran Church, our sister congregation, at NRLP.org. The right-hand panel on the homepage has the links. We would love to meet you and have you worship with us Sunday mornings.

Kimmels Church

It's that time of year again when the warm weather awakens the imagination ... and, people begin making their big plans for the summer. Like so many of us, we're sure you are tired of the social "rollercoaster ride" over the past year.

Our hope is that this summer will be more eventful than last as people, seemingly, are moving about more. However, it may still be a summer that reminds us that everything is not quite yet back to normal. How are we to handle this?

At Kimmels Church, we're doing all we can to keep hopes up and return to normal! Instead of cancelling events, we're planning them. After eight weeks of strictly online worship services last spring, we went back to in-person while continuing the online access as well.

It's been a long journey; but, each week we are getting closer to full attendance and we would love for you to join us. We are not looking to take anyone away from their church, but we also understand the

need for personal interaction with like-minded people.

Our service is Sunday morning at 10 a.m. We also stream our service live on Facebook for anyone who might still feel uncom-



fortable coming physically. But keep in mind, there is simply no replacement for in-person worship and preaching of the Word.

The first Sunday of each month, we offer communion during our morning worship service. Following the service, we share a potluck lunch together. We invite you to join us and bring a dish of food to share. We have designated food servers to limit the number of hands touching serving utensils.

Our National Day of Prayer booth in downtown Orwigsburg has wrapped up. It was an honor to pray with and for all those who stopped by.

If you missed us don't worry. We know that people in our community have a lot of needs and we want to connect with you to pray for those needs. The first Wednesday of every month, a number of us will be available at Bicentennial Park ("on the square" at

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Senior Pastor Doug Cresswell

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is your best source for
current church news of special
services, activities and
community events

Bible Study Opportunities – See Church Web Page

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

W. Market and N. Liberty streets) from 12 to 7 p.m. to pray with anyone who stops by. You may have a great need or a small one ... we'll pray for all of them. You may not have a need at all; but, want to stop by just for the conversation. We welcome that as well.

Plans for Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Kimmels this summer are full steam ahead for July 12-to-16, 6 to 8:30 p.m. each day. This year's theme is "Mystery Island." Grab your compass and flip-flops! On Mystery Island, we'll track down the one true God who is revealed in the Bible. We'll discover that God is great, almighty, the ruler of all, Emmanuel, and worthy of our complete trust. Put on your sunscreen and fill your beach bag as you prepare to discover who our amazing Creator is and the salvation he offers through Jesus?

Registration is available on our website - kimmel-schurch.org - and a free t-shirt will be given at check-in to the first 60 pre-registered kids. So, get signed up now and pass the word to your friends. Don't miss out on this great time and the free shirt. It will be a VBS to remember!

Salem UMC

Salem United Methodist Church - where Liberty and Independence meet - offers three unique services each Sunday with a traditional worship at 8:45 a.m., a contemporary worship at 10:45 a.m. and the SNL Coffeehouse at 6:30 p.m. A paid nursery attendant is on



staff from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The church is accessible to the physically challenged through ramps and a chairlift.

Both Sunday morning services are live-streamed on Facebook at [SalemChurchOrwigsburg](https://www.facebook.com/SalemChurchOrwigsburg) and also uploaded to Facebook and our website www.SalemU.com every week for

viewing at your convenience.

Salem Church will be part of the Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 15. We'll be set up on the front porch of the church office across Liberty Street from the church. Food items will also be sold such as soup, baked goods and "Coney-burgers." Proceeds will go to our local schools for student supplies.

Graduate Recognition Sunday at Salem Church will be celebrated at both morning worship services on Sunday, May 16. All graduates from the community can be recognized if information is supplied to the church office. Include your graduate's full name, the school they are graduating from, graduation date/degree, and any future college or job plans.



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